

Into battle

This activity may take several days to complete.

Objectives

- To realise that making a noise before battle could scare away an enemy and reduce injuries.
- To devise a series of scary sounds and perform them.

Cross-curricular links

Music

- 1b** Play untuned instruments with controlled and rhythmic accuracy.
- 1c** Practice, rehearse and present a performance with an awareness of the audience.

ICT

- 5b** Using ICT tools to capture sounds.

Resources

You will need a means of recording and playing back sounds. Rehearsal space for each group. This could be done at lunch times.

Each group of children will need metal trays (shields), wooden box (side of chariots), sticks or beaters (swords), child's trumpets (horns).

Starter

Tell the children that the Celts were well known and feared for their approach to a battle. They made as much noise as possible to scare the enemy away. This prevented injury as many wounds, which we could recover from today with modern medicine, were fatal.

Main activities

1. Tell the children that they are going to divide into groups of five and six and each group is going to work out a battle chant that is designed to scare the enemy. The emphasis is not on making as much noise as possible but producing the scariest rhythm which can build up to a loud crescendo. The time of the chant is to be 20 seconds (if a particularly creative approach is devised you may like to extend this a little).
2. Show the children the range of equipment they will be given and explain what each one represents. Tell the children that when they have worked out a rhythm they can then add the sounds of the swords on shields, chariot sides and the sound of the horns.
3. Tell the children that when they have worked out what they are going to do they should rehearse it and then it will be recorded. Allow time for rehearsals.
4. When each group is ready their 20 second chant should be recorded. This should be done away from the rest of the class so the group's performance cannot be heard.

Plenary

Let the children listen to each group. Identify each group by a letter only and let the children vote for the scariest chant.

Outcomes

The children can:

- Appreciate the purpose of a battle chant.
- Work together and devise and perform a battle chant.